

Speak Out

Have an opinion or a question about a public issue? Post it anytime at the Public Issues Forums at www.newszap.com. It is a hometown forum so visit the page as often as you would like and share your comments (but no personal attacks or profanities, please). You can also make a comment by calling our Speak Out 24-hour opinion line at 623-445-2850 ext. 2. Comments will be published in the newspaper as space permits.

SVE COMMENT IS INSULTING AND INEXCUSABLE: In response to the “SVE” Speak Out published in the July 22, 2008 edition of the *East Mesa Independent*, we attended the Sunland Village East board meeting held July 10 where a gentleman requested politely and very simply that, on occasion, a board meeting could be scheduled to accommodate the working residents who are still employed. He is not self-serving; he is an interested homeowner. For those who attend board meetings regularly, quickly realize that the board and management serve the interest of only a few. The comment regarding this gentleman’s request is an insult to a very nice gentleman and is inexcusable.

HOAS, SUB-ASSOCIATIONS: Within some homeowners associations, there are extra sub-associations that keep neighbors on even tighter rules. Especially in condos, renters and owners are vulnerable to on-site management and slipshod repairs and maintenance. You need to go over the heads of these people to the master plan inspectors and regulations rules that are posted on your computer, if you are as lucky to find them. Lots of luck, people of Alta Mesa neighborhoods.

PRUDHOE BAY: Now that the Arctic Ocean is open to navigation, why aren’t the oil companies loading directly into ships and Prudhoe Bay and give them time to repair or replace the big, vulnerable, rusty old pipeline?

INFORMED VOTER: Don’t call yourself an informed voter if you are not aware of all the expert information on PBS programs regarding today’s financial traumas and governing mistakes.

FLOODING ON 88TH STREET: ADOT bought some of my property on University Drive. My husband asked them about it flooding on 88th Street and University and they told him they bought some property there to use it as flood drainage and 88th Street was just full of water. It gets flooded no matter what kind of rain it is. I just wanted you to know that.

OBAMA SATIRE: The excuses of the Obama satire are just another sample of that magazine’s mentality of superiority attitude – above the poor, common-man voter who is stupid to understand it is supposed to be a joke. No “ha ha” here.

ALTA MESA: Good news in Alta Mesa. The new board is working hard for your benefit and if you have a computer, plug it in and print off the new architectural committee rules that will be posted for your benefit. If you don’t have a computer, call them and tell them they need to mail it.

\$200M MOVIE: Someone’s bragging about \$200 million being spent on a movie. It’s obscene when you know how many schools could be upgraded, bridges made safe and roads repaired. It’s disgusting. America is going backwards.

CURING CANCER: If the inventor of the radio waves to cure cancer think the medical and insurance world will not block its success, think again. Remember all those early retirees who took a buyout from the auto companies for their new carburetors? After all, it’s only business.

ANOTHER WATER PARK: In response to the “Water park” Speak Out published in the July 22, 2008 edition of the *East Mesa Independent*, is Mesa going to wait another 25 years to develop this end of restoring nature to the riverbed areas like Tempe and Phoenix did? Or are they just going to give more dollars away to the so-called developers of another water park? Water waster.

NO MENTION OF HAM RADIO OPERATORS: In response to the “Loop 202: Thousands at freeway opening party; work completed six years early, officials say” story published in the July 22, 2008 edition of the *East Mesa Independent*, I want to thank you for your front-page coverage of the new section of the freeway that just recently opened up. But, as usual, no mention was made of the 27 ham radio operators who volunteered their time starting at 3 p.m. to set up all the communications. If it weren’t for the ham radio operators, nobody would have been able to talk to anybody. I think we need the exposure.

Editor’s Note: The following comment was taken from the public issues forum at www.newszapforums.com/forum15.

WE CAN’T TAKE YOUR POST SERIOUSLY: In response to the “Lefties will get it right” Speak Out published in the July 15, 2008 edition of the *East Mesa Independent*, you could get more people to take you seriously if you learned to spell correctly. Then again, probably not with a post like yours.

Public issues forums

Join the discussion of important issues at newszap.com. Topics include:

- **Mesa issues:** www.newszapforums.com/forum15/
- **Apache Junction issues:** www.newszapforums.com/forum7/
- **Chandler issues:** www.newszapforums.com/forum13/
- **Gilbert issues:** www.newszapforums.com/forum14/
- **Queen Creek issues:** www.newszapforums.com/forum27/

Go to newszap.com, click on your community and then on “community forums and links.”

From the Editor

‘Biggest Loser’ auditions held at shopping center

By Todd Hoover

Independent Newspapers

“The Biggest Loser,” a reality TV show on NBC, recruited cast members for its seventh season July 19 at Superstition Springs Center, 6555 E. Southern Ave. in southeast Mesa.

According to a press release, the show “challenges and encourages overweight participants to undergo physical makeovers, without any kind of surgery, in a safe and recommended manner through comprehensive diet and exercise as they compete for a grand prize of \$250,000.”

Individuals, teams of two and families of three were invited to audition. A total of 435 people were interviewed and 18 teams were called back.

“He was not able to give me any names or numbers,” said Kristina Merten, the mall’s assistant marketing manager, of the casting producer.

This is the second year in a row “The Biggest Loser” recruited at Superstition Springs Center. Melissa Buxton, the mall’s senior marketing manager, said the show used to recruit at various Valley hotels.

“They just decided the shopping center experience was a lot of fun and brought a lot of excitement and energy as well,” she said.

She said the show was attracted to Mesa because it was named the fourth “fattest” city in the U.S. by Men’s Health magazine in 2007, and because Arizona is a popular visitation spot.

“Not only are there a lot of

people from Mesa that have come to Superstition Springs Center to try out, but also because of the convenience of (Phoenix) Sky Harbor (International) Airport, you also see a lot of people coming from Colorado, New Mexico – we saw people from a lot of other neighboring states,” she explained.

Ms. Buxton said some people



Todd Hoover



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Letters

New traffic lights are waste of money, time

In response to the “East Mesa getting new lights” story published in the July 8, 2008 edition of the *East Mesa Independent*, I live in Augusta Ranch at Ellsworth and Baseline roads. I travel on Guadalupe Road quite a bit.

These new lights that have been installed were a waste of money and time. The ones at Crismon Road, 96th Street, Hawes Road and Farnsworth Drive were the biggest waste.

There’s just not enough traffic that comes out of these streets at any given time that it would warrant a light.

You stop at Hawes, then by time you get to Farnsworth it turns red. Then the same getting to Sossaman Road. The lights aren’t timed.

I’ve been driving on Guadal-

Letters Policy

The purpose of our opinion page is to provide an open forum for our readers. We seek to stimulate community debate, not to dominate or control it.

We welcome and read all letters. Please include your address and phone number so we can contact you for clarification or confirmation. Because of limited space, we may condense or edit letters. We do not publish form letters, copies or letters written to other publications. The shorter the letter, the better its chance of publication. Letters should be no more than 500 words. Readers may post letters on our Web site at www.newszap.com.

upe and the light on these streets turn for no reason. No cars coming out of the street. The three lights on Guadalupe that are really needed are at Ellsworth, Sossaman and Power roads.

Sossaman needs left-turn arrows. The left-turn arrow at Ellsworth needs to work no matter if there’s one vehicle or five. Matter of fact, that’s the way they should be on all lights.

Then there’s the lights near the high school on Crismon – why

are they working when school is out? They should be blinking green on Crismon and red on the side streets.

Ted Kobziak
Augusta Ranch

Newspapers should list other fuels, too

When we see the list of fuel prices in the paper every day, why don’t you list the comparative local prices of compressed natural

gas, propane, diesel and ethanol so everyone can see the spread of what each is going for and they can get an idea if they are using the cheapest fuel for their driving?

David Clement
Mesa

Selling Budweiser to Europe is outrageous

I was not too perturbed, but this is the straw that broke the donkey’s back. Jobs to India. Speak on the phone and I can’t understand. Are they really speaking English?

But selling Budweiser to the Europeans is beyond comprehension. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, please talk to them. Maybe Sen. Barack Obama can stop this ridiculousness.

Al Fischer
Mesa

Guest Commentary

A bright future begins with clear vision

By Victor Mendez

Vision is vital when it comes to planning for our future transportation needs. How far into the future can you see?

What we have before us is something no fortune teller can help us with, and no crystal ball can guide the way.

Thankfully, in the early 1980s, the vision of the public, elected and business leaders and transportation planners was clearly focused on the importance of building a viable network of freeways linking Valley communities.

In 1985, voters approved a one-half cent sales tax to build new freeways in the Valley, and now that plan is nearing completion. But it’s not the finish line – it’s the first leg of a marathon.

Last week, we opened the final segment of the Loop 202 Red Mountain Freeway. It represents the culmination of a 20-year partnership between the public, the

Arizona Department of Transportation, local cities and tribal governments and the Maricopa Association of Governments.

It is the final segment of Arizona’s largest-ever public works project. On a national scale, our progress is unprecedented.

The passage of 1985’s Proposition 300 made a regional freeway system possible. Before this additional funding, our Valley freeway system consisted of only I-17 and I-10. Imagine what it would be like traveling around the Valley today without the regional freeways.

While the initial network of freeways is complete, Maricopa County voters in 2004 had the vision to approve a 20-year extension, providing monies to fund diverse transportation solutions, including light rail, public transit, local streets, freeways and other improvements.

As the Valley evolves, meeting our future transportation needs requires a balanced approach that provides options for the public.

The needs do not end there, but through sustained partnerships with the community and residents of the region, we will continue to plan, build and maintain a premier transportation network that supports not only the Valley but the entire state.

Beyond the pavement that makes a roadway, we are building connections between people, communities and economies.

With leadership from Gov. Janet Napolitano, ADOT continues to work with residents around the state to expand that vision, to create stronger connections between communities around the



Victor Mendez

Guest Commentary

CPR vs. CCR: Do you know the difference?

By Michele Adamczyk

Recently, cardiopulmonary resuscitation has been in the news. If you have not taken a class recently, you may be surprised to learn that breath-to-compression ratios have changed to 30:2 for infants, children and adults.

Aside from traditional CPR, word continues to spread about a new alternative called cardio-cerebral resuscitation – compression-only CPR, or hands-only CPR. Studies show that outcomes are impressive with the new CCR method.

How is a person to know when to use traditional CPR and when to use CCR? A simple way to decide which method to use is to ask, “Why did this person stop breathing?” Are you dealing with a cardiac or respiratory arrest?

Compression-only CPR should be used when a bystander is unwilling, unable, untrained or un-

sure how to perform full CPR and the bystander has witnessed the sudden collapse of an adult.

Providing breaths is not as crucial in cases of sudden cardiac arrest because a person whose heart suddenly stops because of a heart attack was breathing normally immediately prior, so there is plenty of oxygen in the blood.

The important thing is to move the blood around, and this is possible by uninterrupted chest compressions.

It is important to remember that compression-only should not be used for infants and children under the age of 14, an adult whose sudden collapse was not witnessed or when a respiratory emergency may have caused the cardiac arrest.

Infants and children are far more likely to need traditional CPR because of a respiratory collapse where lack of oxygen could be due to a drowning, a severe

asthma attack or a drug overdose.

Knowing how to begin emergency assistance like CPR or CCR is extremely important because brain damage starts when a person is without oxygen for as little as four to six minutes.

Brain death occurs in eight minutes. The immediate assistance can make a difference until emergency personnel arrive.

In any situation, calling 911 immediately is vitally important, so that emergency personnel can respond to the scene as soon as possible.

Are you afraid that your good intention might actually cause harm? Arizona has a Good Samaritan law, which encourages the community to help in an emergency and limits a person’s liability. This law protects helpers

from civil liability except in the case of “gross negligence.”

Get the lifesaving information you need by visiting the Fire and Life Safety Education office of the Mesa Fire Department.

It offers two classes for the community. The Lifesaver class is a free non-certification class that teaches CPR and CCR and provides information on basic first aid.

In addition, a CPR certification class is offered and costs \$25. Both classes are offered twice a month.

Call 480-644-2294 or visit www.cityofmesa.org/fire/FALSE/LifeSafetyEdProgs.

Editor’s Note: Michele Adamczyk is a water safety and drowning prevention coordinator for the Mesa Fire Department.

Corrections

The Mesa Independent strives for accuracy and is pledged to bring errors that have appeared in our newspaper to the attention of our readers. In addition, we offer a “right of reply” to the people about whom we write. Readers who disagree with the content of a news story or the way it was handled or edited are welcome to respond with a letter to the editor or guest commentary and all such letters will be given priority over other submissions. We invite readers to call our newsroom at 480-982-7799 to report an error. Readers may also e-mail their comments to emesanews@newszap.com.

Our Purpose...

The East Mesa Independent is published by Independent Newspapers of Arizona. Independent is owned by a unique trust that enables this newspaper to pursue a mission of journalistic service to the citizens of the community. Since no dividends are paid, the company is able to thrive on profit margins below industry standards. All after-tax surpluses are reinvested in Independent’s mission of journalistic service, commitment to the ideals of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and support of the community’s deliberation of public issues.

We Pledge ...

- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
- To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.
- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- To disclose our own conflicts of interest or potential conflicts to our readers.
- To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those who write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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